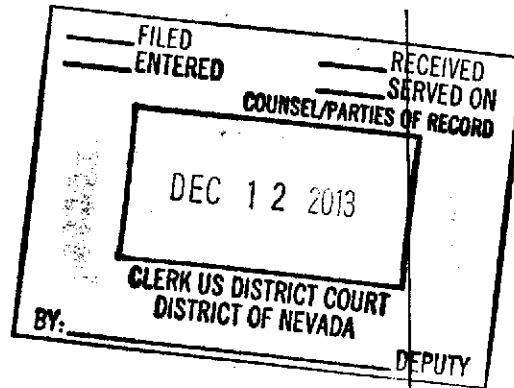


1 DANIEL G. BODGEN
2 United States Attorney
3
4 DANIEL R. SCHIESS
5 Assistant United States Attorney
6 333 Las Vegas Boulevard, Suite 5000
7 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
8 (702) 388-6336
9
10 Attorneys for Plaintiff
11 United States of America



7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

-oo-

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,) Case No. 2:13-cr-00192-LRH-GWF
11 Plaintiff,)
12 v.) PLEA MEMORANDUM
13 RONALD J. HOLMES)
14 Defendant.)
15

16 The United States, by and through Daniel G. Bogden, United States Attorney, and
17 Daniel R. Schiess, Assistant United States Attorney, the defendant, Ronald J. Holmes, and his
18 attorney, Michael L. Lipman, submit this Plea Agreement under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(A)
19 and (B).

20 **I. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT**

21 The parties to this Plea Agreement are the United States of America and Ronald J.
22 Holmes. This Plea Agreement binds the defendant and the United States Attorney's Office for
23 the District of Nevada. It does not bind any other prosecuting, administrative, or regulatory
24 authority, the United States Probation Office, or the Court.

25 The Plea Agreement sets forth the parties' agreement regarding criminal charges
26 referenced in the Plea Agreement and applicable sentences, fines, restitution and forfeiture. It

1 does not control or prohibit the United States or any agency or third party from seeking any other
2 civil or administrative remedies directly or indirectly against the defendant.

3 **II. DISPOSITION OF CHARGES AND WAIVER OF TRIAL RIGHTS**

4 A. Guilty Plea. The defendant knowingly and voluntarily agrees to plead guilty to
5 the one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, wire fraud, and bank fraud in violation of 18
6 U.S.C. §1349.

7 The defendant also agrees to the forfeiture of the property set forth in the Forfeiture
8 Allegation Section in this Plea Agreement.

9 B. Waiver of Trial Rights. The defendant acknowledges that he has been advised
10 and understands that by entering a plea of guilty he is waiving -- that is, giving up -- certain
11 rights guaranteed to all defendants by the laws and the Constitution of the United States.
12 Specifically, the defendant is giving up:

13 1. The right to proceed to trial by jury on all charges, or to a trial by a judge
14 if the defendant and the United States both agree;

15 2. The right to confront the witnesses against the defendant at such a trial,
16 and to cross examine them;

17 3. The right to remain silent at such a trial, with assurance that his silence
18 could not be used against him in any way;

19 4. The right to testify in his own defense at such a trial if he so chooses;

20 5. The right to compel witnesses to appear at such a trial and testify in the
21 defendant's behalf; and

22 6. The right to have the assistance of an attorney at all stages of such
23 proceedings.

24 C. Withdrawal of Guilty Plea. The defendant will not seek to withdraw his guilty
25 plea after he has entered it in court.

1 D. Additional Charges. The United States agrees not to bring any additional
2 charges against the defendant arising out of the investigation in the District of Nevada which
3 culminated in this Plea Agreement and based on conduct known to the United States, except
4 that the United States reserves the right to prosecute the defendant for any crime of violence as
5 defined by 18 U.S.C. § 16.

6 **III. ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSE**

7 A. The elements of conspiracy to commit mail fraud, wire fraud, and bank fraud
8 under 18 U.S.C. §1349 are the following:

9 1. Beginning and ending on the dates set forth in the indictment, there was
10 an agreement between two or more persons to commit the crimes of mail fraud (18 U.S.C. §
11 1341), wire fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1343), and bank fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1344); and

12 2. The defendant became a member of the conspiracy knowing of at least
13 one of its objects and intending to help accomplish it.

14 See Ninth Circuit Manual of Model Jury Instruction, Criminal 8.20 (2010 ed.).

15 B. The essential elements for the crime of mail fraud are the following:

16 1. The defendant knowingly devised a scheme or plan to defraud, or a
17 scheme or plan for obtaining money or property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses,
18 representations, or promises;

19 2. The statements made or facts omitted as part of the scheme were
20 material; that is, they had a natural tendency to influence, or were capable of influencing, a
21 person to part with money or property;

22 3. The defendant acted with the intent to defraud; that is, the intent to
23 deceive or cheat; and

24 4. The defendant used, or caused to be used, the mails or a commercial
25 interstate carrier to carry out or attempt to carry out an essential part of the scheme.

26 See Ninth Circuit Manual of Model Jury Instructions, Criminal 8.121 (2010 ed.).

RWB

1 C. The essential elements for the crime of wire fraud are the following:

2 1. The defendant knowingly devised a scheme or plan to defraud, or a
3 scheme or plan for obtaining money or property by means of false or fraudulent pretenses,
4 representations, or promises;

5 2. The statements made or facts omitted as part of the scheme were material;
6 that is, they had a natural tendency to influence, or were capable of influencing, a person to part
7 with money or property;

8 3. The defendant acted with the intent to defraud; that is, the intent to deceive
9 or cheat; and

10 4. The defendant used, or caused to be used, interstate wire communications
11 to carry out or attempt to carry out an essential part of the scheme.

12 *See Ninth Circuit Manual of Model Jury Instructions, Criminal 8.121 and 8.124*
13 (2010 ed.).

14 D. The essential elements for the crime of bank fraud are the following:

15 1. The defendant knowingly carried out a scheme or plan to obtain money or
16 property from lenders by making false statements or promises;

17 2. The defendant knew that the statements or promises were false;

18 3. The statements or promises were material; that is, they had a natural
19 tendency to influence, or were capable of influencing, a financial institution to part with money
20 or property;

21 4. The defendant acted with the intent to defraud; and

22 5. The lender was a federally insured financial institution.

23 *See Ninth Circuit Manual of Model Jury Instructions, Criminal 8.127 (2010 ed.).*

24 **IV. FACTS SUPPORTING GUILTY PLEA**

25 A. The defendant will plead guilty because he is, in fact and under the law, guilty of
26 the crime charged.

1 B. The defendant acknowledges that if he elected to go to trial instead of pleading
2 guilty, the United States could prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt and establish its right
3 to the forfeiture money judgment. The defendant further acknowledges that his admissions and
4 declarations of fact set forth below satisfy every element of the charged offense.

5 C. The defendant waives any potential future claim that the facts he admitted in this
6 Plea Agreement were insufficient to satisfy the elements of the charged offense.

7 D. The defendant admits and declares under penalty of perjury that the facts set
8 forth below are true and correct:

9 1. From in or about 2006, to in or about 2009, Holmes conspired with others
10 to commit mail fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1341), wire fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1343), and bank fraud (18
11 U.S.C. § 1344).

The Objective of the Conspiracy

13 2. The objectives of the conspiracy were for the defendant and his
14 coconspirators to obtain mortgage loans by fraudulent means to buy houses, to use some of the
15 loan proceeds for themselves, in some instances to live in the houses, and in one instance file
16 bankruptcy petitions to forestall foreclosure on one house so the defendant could continue to
17 live in it.

Manner and Means

19 3. The defendant and his coconspirators accomplished the objectives of the
20 conspiracy by devising and intending to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and for
21 obtaining money and property by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and
22 promises.

23 4. It was part of the scheme that the defendant and his co-conspirators
24 sometimes recruited people to be straw buyers and sometimes created straw buyers by using
25 someone else's identity. A straw buyer is a person in whose name coconspirators buy a house

1 and submit a fraudulent loan application to a lender to obtain a mortgage for the purchase of the
2 house.

3 5. It was further part of the scheme that the defendant and his coconspirators
4 made and caused to be made materially false and fraudulent statements in the straw buyers' loan
5 applications and related documents regarding the straw buyers' employment, income, assets,
6 intent to occupy the property, roles as buyers, and other facts, and submitted and caused to be
7 submitted the applications and supporting documents to lenders.

8 6. Some of the false statements that the defendant made and caused to be
9 made in furtherance of the scheme include the following: (1) genuine people were buying
10 houses when the defendant then and there well knew that the buyers were straw buyers; (2) a
11 straw buyer signed loan documents when the defendant signed the documents in the straw
12 buyer's name so the defendant could live in one of the houses; and (3) straw buyers worked for
13 the defendant's company when the defendant then and there well knew they did not work for his
14 company.

15 7. It was further part of the scheme that the defendant caused lenders to
16 make loans to the straw buyers based on the materially false and fraudulent statements.

17 8. It was further part of the scheme that the defendant and his co-
18 conspirators caused escrows for the transactions to close and loan proceeds to be disbursed to
19 co-conspirators.

20 9. It was further part of the scheme that the defendant lived in two of the
21 houses until lenders foreclosed on the houses because the defendant made few, if any, mortgage
22 payments.

23 10. It was further part of the scheme that in or about 2007 and 2008, the
24 defendant filed and caused to be filed bankruptcy petitions in the name of the straw buyer so the
25 defendant could continue to live in the house.

RH

1 11. In execution of the scheme, the defendant caused items to be mailed and
 2 sent by means of interstate wire communications. The wire communications include emails,
 3 facsimiles, and wire transfers of money.

4 12. Some of the lenders were federally insured.

5 13. Some of the properties used in the scheme and the names of the lenders
 6 and approximate dates of closings are set forth below.

7 ADDRESS	8 CLOSING DATE	9 LENDER
11335 Stella Cadente, Las Vegas, Nevada	10/26/06	Centralbanc Mortgage Corp.
3787 Brittany Nicole, Las Vegas, Nevada	9/27/07	Citi Bank, N.A.
3928 Sincerity Court, Las Vegas, Nevada	8/27/08	JPMorgan Chase Bank

12 14. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title
 13 28, United States Code Section 2461(c) the defendant admits that the *in personam* criminal
 14 forfeiture money judgment of \$100,000 is property, real or personal, which constitutes or is
 15 derived from proceeds traceable to violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341,
 16 1343, and 1344, specified unlawful activities as defined in Title 18, United States Code,
 17 Sections 1956(c)(7)(A) and 11961(1)(B), or Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349,
 18 conspiracy to commit such offenses, and is therefore subject to forfeiture. Pursuant to Title 18,
 19 United States Code, Section 982(a)(2)(A), the defendant admits that the *in personam* criminal
 20 forfeiture money judgment of \$100,000 is property constituting, or derived from, proceeds
 21 obtained directly or indirectly as a result of violations of Title 18, United States Code, Sections
 22 1343 and 1344, or Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349, conspiracy to commit such
 23 offenses, and is therefore subject to forfeiture.

24 V. COLLATERAL USE OF FACTUAL ADMISSIONS

25 The facts set forth in Section IV of this Plea Agreement shall be admissible against the
 26 defendant under Fed. R. Evid. 801(d)(2)(A) at sentencing for any purpose. If the defendant

1 does not plead guilty or withdraws his guilty pleas, the facts set forth in Section IV of this Plea
 2 Agreement shall be admissible at any proceeding, including a trial, for impeaching or rebutting
 3 any evidence, argument or representation offered by or on the defendant's behalf. The
 4 defendant expressly waives all rights under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(f) and Fed. R. Evid. 410
 5 regarding the use of the facts set forth in Section IV of this Plea Agreement.

6 VI. APPLICATION OF SENTENCING GUIDELINES PROVISIONS

7 A. Discretionary Nature of Sentencing Guidelines. The defendant acknowledges
 8 that the Court must consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines ("USSG" or "Sentencing
 9 Guidelines") in determining the defendant's sentence, but that the Sentencing Guidelines are
 10 advisory, not mandatory, and the Court has discretion to impose any reasonable sentence up to
 11 the maximum term of imprisonment permitted by statute.

12 B. Offense Level Calculations. The parties stipulate to the following calculation of
 13 the defendant's offense level under the Sentencing Guidelines, acknowledge that these
 14 stipulations do not bind the Court, and agree that they will not seek to apply any other specific
 15 offense characteristics, enhancements or reductions:

16 Base Offense Level (USSG § 2B1.1(a)(1)):	7
17 Loss Amount: \$1,000,000-\$2,500,000 (USSG § 2B1.1(b)(1)(I)):	16
18 Sophisticated Means (USSG § 2B1.1(b)(10)(C))	2
19 Reduction for Acceptance of Responsibility (USSG § 3E1.1(a),(b))	<u>(3)</u>
21 Total	<u>22</u>

22 The defendant acknowledges that the statutory maximum sentence and any statutory
 23 minimum sentence limit the Court's discretion in determining the defendant's sentence
 24 notwithstanding any applicable Sentencing Guidelines provisions.

25 C. Reduction of Offense Level for Acceptance of Responsibility. Under USSG
 26 § 3E1.1(a), the United States will recommend that the defendant receive a two-level downward



1 adjustment for acceptance of responsibility unless he (a) fails to truthfully admit facts
2 establishing a factual basis for the guilty plea when he enters the plea; (b) fails to truthfully
3 admit facts establishing the amount of restitution owed when he enters his guilty plea; (c) fails
4 to truthfully admit facts establishing the forfeiture allegations when he enters his guilty plea; (d)
5 provides false or misleading information to the United States, the Court, Pretrial Services, or the
6 Probation Office; (e) denies involvement in the offense or provides conflicting statements
7 regarding his involvement or falsely denies or frivolously contests conduct relevant to the
8 offense; (f) attempts to withdraw his guilty plea; (g) commits or attempts to commit any crime;
9 (h) fails to appear in court; or (I) violates the conditions of pretrial release.

10 Under USSG §3E1.1(b), the United States will move for an additional one-level
11 downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility before sentencing because the defendant
12 communicated his decision to plead guilty in a timely manner that enabled the United States to
13 avoid preparing for trial and to efficiently allocate its resources.

14 These Sentencing Guidelines provisions, if applied, will result in a total offense level of
15 22, as stated above.

16 D. Criminal History Category. The defendant acknowledges that the Court may
17 base his sentence in part on the defendant's criminal record or criminal history. The Court will
18 determine the defendant's Criminal History Category under the Sentencing Guidelines.

19 E. Relevant Conduct. The Court may consider all relevant conduct, whether
20 charged or uncharged, in determining the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range and whether
21 to depart from that range.

22 F. Additional Sentencing Information. The stipulated Sentencing Guidelines
23 calculations are based on information now known to the parties. The parties may provide
24 additional information to the United States Probation Office and the Court regarding the nature,
25 scope, and extent of the defendant's criminal conduct and any aggravating or mitigating facts or

1 circumstances. Good faith efforts to provide truthful information or to correct factual
2 misstatements shall not be grounds for the defendant to withdraw his guilty plea.

3 The defendant acknowledges that the United States Probation Office may calculate the
4 Sentencing Guidelines differently and may rely on additional information it obtains through its
5 investigation. The defendant also acknowledges that the Court may rely on this and other
6 additional information as it calculates the Sentencing Guidelines range and makes other
7 sentencing determinations, and the Court's reliance on such information shall not be grounds for
8 the defendant to withdraw his guilty plea.

9 **VII. APPLICATION OF SENTENCING STATUTES**

10 A. Maximum Penalty. The maximum penalty for conspiracy under 18 U.S.C.
11 § 1349 is a thirty-year prison sentence, a fine of \$1,000,000, or both.

12 B. Factors Under 18 U.S.C. § 3553. The Court must consider the factors set forth in
13 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) in determining the defendants sentence. However, the statutory maximum
14 sentence and any statutory minimum sentence limit the Court's discretion in determining the
15 defendant's sentence.

16 C. Parole Abolished. The defendant acknowledges that his prison sentence cannot
17 be shortened by early release on parole because parole has been abolished.

18 D. Supervised Release. In addition to imprisonment and a fine, the defendant will
19 be subject to a term of supervised release not greater than five years. 18 U.S.C. § 3583(b)(1).
20 Supervised release is a period of time after release from prison during which the defendant will
21 be subject to various restrictions and requirements. If the defendant violates any condition of
22 supervised release, the Court may order the defendant's return to prison for all or part of the
23 term of supervised release, which could result in the defendant serving a total term of
24 imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum prison sentence of 30 years.

25 E. Special Assessment. The defendant will pay a \$100.00 special assessment per
26 count at the time of sentencing.

[Signature]

1 **VIII. POSITIONS REGARDING SENTENCE**

2 The United States will recommend that the defendant be sentenced to the low end of the
3 applicable Sentencing Guidelines range as determined by the Court unless the defendant
4 commits any act that could result in a loss of the downward adjustment for acceptance of
5 responsibility. The defendant acknowledges that the Court does not have to follow that
6 recommendation. The defendant also acknowledges that the Court does not have to grant a
7 downward departure based on the defendant's substantial assistance to the United States, even if
8 the United States chooses to file a motion pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(e)(1), USSG § 5K1.1, or
9 Fed. R. Crim. P. 35. This Plea Agreement does not require the United States to file any pre or
10 post sentence downward departure motion under USSG §5K1.1 or Fed. R. Crim. P. 35.
11 Notwithstanding the agreement to recommend a sentence within the applicable range, the United
12 States reserves its right to defend any lawfully imposed sentence on appeal or in any post-
13 conviction litigation.

14 The defendant may request a sentence below the Sentencing Guidelines range as
15 calculated in this Plea Agreement pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553 from any sentence the Court
16 may impose, and the United States may oppose it.

17 **IX. RESTITUTION**

18 In exchange for benefits received under this Plea Agreement, the defendant agrees to
19 pay restitution in the amount of \$1,668,586, which restitution shall be joint and several with any
20 coconspirators who may be ordered to pay restitution on these transactions, but at this time no
21 co-conspirators have been charged. The defendant cannot discharge his restitution obligation
22 through bankruptcy proceedings. The defendant acknowledges that restitution payments and
23 obligations cannot offset or reduce the amount of any forfeiture judgment imposed in this case.

24

25

26



1 **X. FORFEITURE**

2 The defendant knowingly and voluntarily:

3 A. Agrees to the abandonment, the civil administrative forfeiture, the civil judicial
4 forfeiture, or the criminal forfeiture of a criminal forfeiture money judgment of \$100,000
5 ("property");

6 B. Abandons or forfeits the property to the United States;

7 C. Relinquishes all right, title, and interest in the property;

8 D. Waives his right to any abandonment proceedings, any civil administrative
9 forfeiture proceedings, any civil judicial forfeiture proceedings, or any criminal forfeiture
10 proceedings of the property ("proceedings");

11 E. Waives service of process of any and all documents filed in this action or any
12 proceedings concerning the property arising from the facts and circumstances of this case;

13 F. Waives any further notice to him, his agents, or his attorney regarding the
14 abandonment or the forfeiture and disposition of the property;

15 G. Agrees not to file any claim, answer, petition, or other documents in any
16 proceedings concerning the property;

17 H. Waives the statute of limitations, the CAFRA requirements, Fed. R. Crim. P. 7
18 and 32.2, the constitutional requirements, and the constitutional due process requirements of any
19 proceedings concerning the property;

20 I. Waives his right to a jury trial on the forfeiture of the property;

21 J. Waives all constitutional, legal, and equitable defenses to the forfeiture or
22 abandonment of the property in any proceedings, including but not limited to (1) constitutional
23 or statutory double jeopardy defenses; and (2) defenses under the Excessive Fines or Cruel and
24 Unusual Punishments Clauses of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution;

25 K. Agrees to the entry of an Order of Forfeiture of the property to the United States;

1 L. Agrees that forfeiture is immediately due and payable and subject to immediate
2 collection by the United States;

3 M. Agrees and understands the abandonment, the civil administrative forfeiture, the
4 civil judicial forfeiture, or the criminal forfeiture of the property shall not be treated as
5 satisfaction of any assessment, fine, restitution, cost of imprisonment, or any other penalty the
6 Court may impose upon the defendant in addition to the abandonment or the forfeiture; and

7 N. The defendant acknowledges that the amount of the forfeiture may differ from,
8 and may be significantly greater than, the amount of restitution.

9 **XI. FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND DISPOSITION OF ASSETS**

10 Before or after sentencing, upon request by the Court, the United States, or the Probation
11 Office, the defendant will provide accurate and complete financial information, submit sworn
12 statements, and/or give depositions under oath concerning his assets and his ability to pay. The
13 defendant will surrender assets he obtained directly or indirectly as a result of his crimes, and
14 will release funds and property under his control in order to pay any fine, forfeiture, or
15 restitution ordered by the Court.

16 **XII. COOPERATION**

17 The defendant agrees, if requested by the United States, to provide complete and truthful
18 information and testimony concerning the defendant's knowledge of all other persons who are
19 committing or have committed offenses against the United States or any state, and agrees to
20 cooperate fully with the United States and any state and local agencies in the investigation and
21 prosecution of such persons. The defendant agrees that the information provided can be used
22 against the defendant to establish relevant conduct for sentencing purposes.

23 In the event the United States Attorney decides in the sole discretion of the United States
24 Attorney that the assistance provided by the defendant amounts to "substantial assistance"
25 pursuant to USSG § 5K1.1, the United States will timely file a motion for downward departure



1 from the applicable Guideline calculation. The Court has the sole discretion to grant such a
2 motion.

3 The defendant agrees that a motion for downward departure based on substantial
4 assistance shall not be made under any circumstances unless the defendant's cooperation is
5 deemed to be substantial assistance by the United States Attorney. The United States has made
6 no promise, implied or otherwise, that the defendant will be granted a departure for substantial
7 assistance. Further, no promise has been made that such a motion will be made even if the
8 defendant complies with the terms of this Plea Agreement in all respects but has been unable to
9 provide substantial assistance as determined in the sole discretion of the United States Attorney.

10 The United States agrees to consider the totality of the circumstances, including but not
11 limited to, the following factors, in determining whether, in the sole discretion of the United
12 States Attorney, the defendant has provided substantial assistance which would merit a motion
13 by the United States for a downward departure from the applicable Guideline:

14 A. The United States' evaluation of the significance and usefulness of the
15 defendant's assistance;

16 B. The truthfulness, completeness, and reliability of any information or testimony
17 provided by the defendant;

18 C. The nature and extent of the defendant's assistance;

19 D. Any injury suffered, or any danger or risk of injury to the defendant or the
20 defendant's family resulting from the defendant's assistance; and

21 E. The timeliness of the defendant's assistance.

22 The defendant agrees that in the event the United States files a downward departure
23 motion based upon the defendant's substantial assistance, the United States reserves the right to
24 make a specific recommendation to the Court regarding the extent of such a departure. The
25 defendant understands and agrees that the final decision as to how much of a departure, if any,
26 is warranted rests solely with the Court.

RH

1 The defendant agrees that if the United States determines that the defendant has not
2 provided full and truthful cooperation, or has committed any federal, state or local crime
3 between the date of this agreement and the defendant's sentencing, or has otherwise violated
4 any provision of this agreement, then (a) the agreement and any of its obligations hereunder
5 may be voided by the United States in its sole discretion, (b) the defendant may not withdraw
6 the guilty plea, and (c) the defendant shall be subject to prosecution for all federal criminal
7 offenses of which the United States has knowledge, including but not limited to, perjury and
8 obstruction of justice. Any such prosecution may be based upon any information provided by
9 the defendant or leads derived therefrom.

10 **XIII. THE DEFENDANT'S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND WAIVERS**

11 A. Plea Agreement and Decision to Plead Guilty. The defendant acknowledges
12 that:

13 1. He has read this Plea Agreement and understands its terms and
14 conditions;

15 2. He has had adequate time to discuss this case, the evidence, and this Plea
16 Agreement with his attorney;

17 3. He has discussed the terms of this Plea Agreement with his attorney;

18 4. The representations contained in this Plea Agreement are true and correct,
19 including the facts set forth in Section IV; and

20 5. He was not under the influence of any alcohol, drug, or medicine that
21 would impair his ability to understand the Agreement when he considered signing this Plea
22 Agreement and when he signed it.

23 The defendant understands that he alone decides whether to plead guilty or go to trial,
24 and acknowledges that he has decided to enter his guilty plea knowing of the charges brought
25 against him, his possible defenses, and the benefits and possible detriments of proceeding to
26

1 trial. The defendant also acknowledges that he decided to plead guilty voluntarily and that no
2 one coerced or threatened him to enter into this Plea Agreement.

3 B. Waiver of Appeal and Post-Conviction Proceedings. The defendant knowingly
4 and expressly waives: (a) the right to appeal any sentence imposed within or below the
5 applicable Sentencing Guideline range as determined by the Court; (b) the right to appeal the
6 manner in which the Court determined that sentence on the grounds set forth in 18 U.S.C.
7 § 3742; and (c) the right to appeal any other aspect of the conviction or sentence and any order
8 of restitution or forfeiture.

9 The defendant also knowingly and expressly waives all collateral challenges, including
10 any claims under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, to his conviction, sentence, and the procedure by which the
11 Court adjudicated guilt and imposed sentence, except non-waivable claims of ineffective
12 assistance of counsel.

13 The defendant reserves only the right to appeal any portion of the sentence that is an
14 upward departure from the Sentencing Guidelines range determined by the Court.

15 The defendant acknowledges that the United States is not obligated or required to
16 preserve any evidence obtained in the investigation of this case.

17 C. Removal/Deportation Consequences. The defendant understands and
18 acknowledges that if he is not a United States citizen, then it is highly probable that will be
19 permanently removed (deported) from the United States as a consequence of pleading guilty
20 under the terms of this Plea Agreement. The defendant has also been advised if his conviction
21 is for an offense described in 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(43), he will be deported and removed from the
22 United States and will not be allowed to return to the United States at any time in the future.
23 The defendant desires to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that may
24 result from his guilty plea, even if the consequence is automatic removal from the United States
25 with no possibility of returning. The defendant acknowledges that he has specifically discussed
26 these removal/deportation consequences with his attorney.

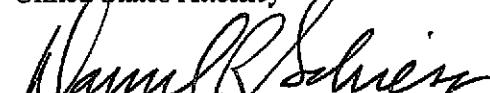


1 **XIV. ADDITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

2 This Plea Agreement resulted from an arms-length negotiation in which both parties
3 bargained for and received valuable benefits in exchange for valuable concessions. It
4 constitutes the entire agreement negotiated and agreed to by the parties. No promises,
5 agreements or conditions other than those set forth in this agreement have been made or implied
6 by the defendant, the defendant's attorney, or the United States, and no additional promises,
7 agreements or conditions shall have any force or effect unless set forth in writing and signed by
8 all parties or confirmed on the record before the Court.

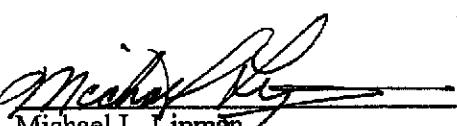
9
10 10/24/13
11 DATE

DANIEL G. BODGEN
United States Attorney

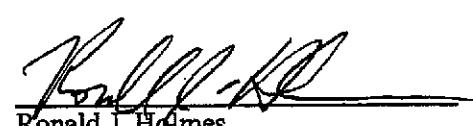

Daniel R. Schiess

Assistant United States Attorney

12 10/23/13
13 DATE


Michael L. Lipman
Counsel for Defendant

14 _____
15 DATE


Ronald J. Holmes
Defendant